

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 04959 251103Z

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4169

UNCLAS KUWAIT 4959

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, KUS

SUBJECT: REIMBURSABLE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: UNDERWATER
PIPELINE EXPERT FOR MEW

1. KUWAIT MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND WATER (MEW) HAS ASKED
EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING EXPERT WHO COULD WORK WITH
MEW OFFICIALS IN REVIEWING BIDS FOR UNDERWATER WATER
PIPELINE CONTRACT. BACKGROUND TO REQUEST IS AS FOLLOWS:
GOK WISHES TO ESTABLISH ELECTRICAL AND WATER SERVICES TO
ISLAND OF FAILAKA AND TENDERS HAVE BEEN ISSUED FOR 2 SUBMARINE
CABLES AND ONE WATER PIPELINE. CABLES AND PIPELINE WILL GO
FROM SALMIYA TO FAILAKA, A DISTANCE OF ABOUT 25KM. FRENCH
COMPANY PREPARED FEASIBILITY STUDY AND DEFINED SPECIFICATIONS,
AND BIDS HAVE NOW BEEN RECEIVED BY MEW, INCLUDING SOME FROM
US FIRMS.

2. MEW FINDS THAT IT IS INCAPABLE OF MAKING CERTAIN TECHNICAL
JUDGMENTS AND EVALUATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH WATER PIPELINE
BIDS REGARDING SUCH PROBLEMS AS CORROSION, EROSION, ETC.
MEW HAS NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH UNDERWATER PIPELINES.
MEW HAD HOPED TO AWARD CONTRACTS IN ABOUT TWO MONTHS AND
THEREFORE COMMIT FUNDS FOR PRESENT FISCAL YEAR WHICH ENDS
MARCH 31. THEREFORE, OFFICIALS CONSIDER REQUIREMENT FOR
EXPERT TO BE URGENT.

3. MEW WOULD LIKE TO HAVE AN EXPERT HERE FOR ABOUT THREE
WEEKS TO PARTICIPATE IN BID ANALYSIS BY MEW. EXPERT WOULD
SUPPLEMENT MEW CAPABILITIES, AND HE WOULD NOT BE
CHARGED WITH DETERMINING WHO SHOULD WIN CONTRACT. MEW
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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 04959 251103Z

WOULD LIKE TO HAVE HIM IN KUWAIT SOONEST. HE PRESUMABLY

WOULD WISH TO RETURN TO US IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY, BUT MEW WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO CALL ON HIM FROM TIME TO TIME IN FUTURE FOR ADDITIONAL CONSULTATIONS. MEW WOULD BEAR ALL EXPENSES AND ARRANGE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR EXPERT IN KUWAIT.

4. IN DISCUSSION BETWEEN ASSISTANT UNDERSECRETARY/CHIEF ENGINEER DR. ZAKI ABU EID AND EMBOFF, WE EXPLORED BEST WAY FOR MEW TO OBTAIN SERVICES OF EXPERT QUICKLY AND DECIDED THAT MEW WOULD TELEX AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION, 2 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK DIRECTLY ASKING THAT ORGANIZATION TO HELP IF IT CAN. EMBOFF AGREED TO INFORM DEPARTMENT OF MEW'S PROBLEM AND ASK FOR ITS ASSISTANCE AS WELL.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT REQUESTED TO ALERT AWWA OF MEW REQUEST AND TO URGE ORGANIZATION TO BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE. FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW WE HAVE FOUND THAT OUR ABILITY TO HELP GOK ON SUCH OCCASIONS IS GREATLY APPRECIATED AND THEREFORE BENEFITS EMBASSY AND US INTERESTS HERE. MOREOVER, GIVEN IMPORTANT ROLE MEW PLAYS IN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT, MANAGING HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS WORTH OF POWER AND WATER CONTRACTS, OUR BEING HELPFUL NOW COULD PAY-OFF COMMERCIAL AT A LATER TIME. THESE CONSIDERATIONS SHOULD BE EXPLAINED TO AWWA. DEPARTMENT ALSO REQUESTED TO ADVISE WHETHER ANOTHER USG AGENCY OR PRIVATE GROUP OTHER THAN AWWA WOULD MORE LIKELY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE HELP QUICKLY AND THEREFORE WHETHER AN ORGANIZATION OTHER THAN AWWA SHOULD BE CALLED. DR. ABU EID SAID MEW WOULD PREFER EXPERT NOT RPT NOT WITH COMMERCIAL FIRM IF POSSIBLE SO THAT HIS OBJECTIVITY WOULD NOT BE QUESTIONED.
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